

**SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN
MALAYSIA**

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ABSTRACT

This study is about social impact assessment in urban development in Malaysia. In this study, social impact assessment is described and discussed. Social impact assessment is defined as "the process of identifying the future consequences of a current or proposed action which are related to individuals, organizations and social macro-systems". In the cities of developing countries, the city's center is grown, so this is where for certain projects; impact on people can be by far the most important consideration. In such cases, a social impact assessment (SIA) is carried out as a part of the process. The study of Social Impact Assessment in Urban Development is been carried out in Malaysia. Questionnaire is distributed to the consultant firm, contractor and also government firm for this study. The objective of this study is to assess the way SIA has been used in the past, to consider how social impact assessment in urban development could be improved and to highlight best practice recommendations and general principals of social impact assessment that are relevant for urban development. As conclusion, social impact assessment is important to the urban development in Malaysia. The Social Impact assessment in Malaysia can be improved to prevent the negative impacts.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji Penilaian Kesan Sosial ke atas Pembangunan Bandar di Malaysia. Di dalam kajian ini, penilaian kesan sosial dihurai dan dibincangkan. Penilaian Kesan Sosial di sini bermaksud proses mengenali atau mengenalpasti akibat atau permasalahan pada masa akan datang bagi perkara yang sedang atau akan berlaku yang berkaitan dengan individu, organisasi, dan sistem makro sosial. Di dalam Negara yang pesat membangun, pusat Bandar semakin berkembang. Jadi di sinilah dimana bagi sesetengah projek, kesan terhadap manusia diambil kira. Oleh itu, penilaian kesan sosial dijadikan sebagai salah satu proses yang harus dijalankan. Kajian penilaian kesan sosial terhadap pembangunan Bandar ini dijalankan di Malaysia. Semasa melakukan kajian ini, borang kaji selidik diedarkan kepada firma pembinaan, badan kerajaan dan semua pihak yang terlibat dalam industri pembinaan. Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengetahui cara penilaian kesan sosial digunakan pada masa dahulu. Ia juga bertujuan untuk mempertimbangkan bagaimana penilaian kesan sosial ke atas pembangunan bandar boleh diperbaiki dan cara yang terbaik ditekankan untuk cadangan serta prinsip umum untuk penilaian kesan sosial yang sesuai ke atas pembangunan bandar. Secara kesimpulannya, penilaian kesan sosial adalah amat penting dan harus diambil kira untuk pembangunan bandar. Penilaian kesan sosial di Malaysia boleh lagi diperbaiki untuk mengelakan kesan negatif terhadap sesebuah bandar.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Social change is the consequence of almost any intrusion into the community life of any society. The intrusions can be in the form of specific development projects, or nonspecific, less tangible forms such as increased exposure to other cultures, technological change and so on. The social change that result intrusions into community life may be beneficial, but more commonly intrusions have undesirable or negative outcomes. Even change that in long run may have a positive effect on the social wellbeing of a community may have undesirable short term consequences.

Social impact assessment is the process of analyzing (predicting, evaluating and relecting) and managing the intended and unintended consequences on the human environment of interventions (policies, plans, programs, projects and other social activities) and social change processes as to create a more sustainable biophysical and human environment.

SIA is also understood to be an umbrella or overarching framework that embodies all human impacts including aesthetic impacts, archeological impacts, community impacts, cultural impacts, demographic impacts, development impacts, economic and fiscal impacts, gender assessment, health impacts, indigenous rights, infrastructural impacts, intuition impacts, political impacts, poverty assessment, psychological impacts, resource issues, tourism impacts, and other impacts on societies.

The process of urban development in a naturally growing city or in a city with loose development control generally results in three types of physical developments, which are collectively called urban development forms (UDF). The definition of urban development form is as the manifestation of certain physical and spatial growth and development as a result of human activities in an urban area. In a similar way defines UDF as spatial patterns of human activities at a certain point in time. This implies that urban development forms are either planned or unplanned entities. This definition does not subscribe to land use as the primary determinant of urban form.

The planned, controlled or unplanned UDF can generally be manifested in a city by controlled residential cum commercial areas in the city center, unplanned peri-urban areas and planned satellite towns. For the purpose of energy consumption comparisons, development control and geographical location can perhaps be common denominators for these types of UDF. However, as reflected in their names, location is too weak to be considered as the main denominator for comparing energy consumption purpose, since it is too obvious that residential locations are the main governing variable for transport energy, as found in some studies.

1.2 Problem statement

In the cities of developing countries, the city's center is grown organically from an originally uncontrolled residential area that later encourages commercial activities to form mixed land use. As the city grows, the local authority regulates this area to become a controlled residential cum commercial area. Notes that planners are increasingly dealing with the problems of social impacts and accommodating complex mixes of land uses at close quarters, especially in central cores and at satellite nodes. One of the benefits of mixed land use is its ability to reduce transport energy by creating biking or walking communities due to the proximity of origins and destinations.

This is where for certain projects; impact on people can be by far the most important consideration. In such cases, a social impact assessment (SIA) is carried out as a part of the process, or sometimes as a parallel or separate review. This approach is too used to analyze the social impacts in urban development of a proposal on individuals and communities to enhance the positive effects. It also provided a framework to manage social change in urban development.

1.3Goals

The goals of the study are define and objective in order to achieve the goals. Several objectives have been identifying as follow:

- To assess the way SIA has been used in the past – specifically what is captured and what is missed and what were the principles, procedures and methods of SIA.
- To consider how social impact assessment in urban development could be improved
- To highlight best practice recommendations and general principals of social impact assessment that are relevant for urban development.

1.4 Scope of study

The scopes of this study have been determined in order to facilitate the literature study by focusing on certain field and specific. This study is to investigate the social impact assessment in urban development in Malaysia. From the investigation, we need to collect all the data needed. All the data collected, and we can know the social impact assessment in Malaysia. All the data is record using Microsoft excel.

1.5 Significant of Study

This study is to determine the social impact assessment in urban development in Malaysia. It is to know how the urban development will give impact to social in Malaysia. The study follows the objectives that have been stated.

1.6 Thesis Outline

This thesis consists of five chapters and is organized as follow:

Chapter 1 is the introduction of the thesis and includes the background of the project, problem statement, objectives, scope of study and followed by methodology.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review on the definitions of the Social Impact Assessment, the principal and the guideline and also the method use to determine the Social Impact Assessment.

Chapter 3 informs about methodology of this project. In this chapter, the Social Impact Assessment is determining by distribute questionnaire to the government and non government agencies. Then the data was collected and analyze using Microsoft axel.

Chapter 4 explains the result and the analysis of the questionnaire that collected. All of the data collected was explain. The questionnaire results are analyzed and presented.

Chapter 5 is conclusion. Overall conclusion of this project stated in this chapter together with some future recommendations.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Social impact assessment (SIA) is the process of assessing and managing the consequences of development projects, policies and decisions on people. Its objective is to identify the intended and unintended effects of planned interventions in order to develop sustainable management plans. SIA emerged as a separate field of applied social science due to the realization in the early days of NEPA 1969 that environmental impact assessments (EIAs) could not adequately address social issues. In the late 1970s, many developed countries and some developing countries adopted SIA as a means of addressing social issues arising from development initiatives. However, SIA remained basically an integral component of EIA and is yet to be as firmly established in environmental planning as EIA.

2.2 Definition of SIA

SIA was defined as follows:

Social impact assessment in terms of efforts to assess or estimate, in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow from specific policy actions (including programs, and the adoption of new policies), and specific government actions (including buildings, large projects and leasing large tracts of land for resource extraction), particularly in the context of the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 or “NEPA” (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*).

Their 2003 definition is substantially similar, although broadening the scope to include private projects and state regulations as well as the federal setting (NEPA).

In the 2003 version, social impact assessment is define in terms of efforts to assess, appraise or estimate, in advance, the social consequences that are likely to follow from proposed actions. These include: specific government or private projects, such as construction of buildings, siting power generation facilities, large transportation projects, managing natural resources, fish and wildlife; and preserving or leasing large tracts of land and the adoption of new policies and resulting plans and programs. The actions and their consequences are considered particularly in the context of the NEPA (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and state laws and regulations that reflect NEPA.

2.3 A Basic Model for Social Impact Assessment

The Link between Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment Impacts on the social environment resemble bio-physical impacts in several ways.

- Social and biophysical impacts can vary in desirability, ranging from the desirable to the adverse.
- They also vary in scale-the question of whether a facility will create 50 or 1000 jobs, for example, or will have the potential to spill 50 or 1000 gallons of toxic waste.
- Another consideration involves the extent of duration of impacts in time and space. Like bio-physical impacts, some social impacts can be of short duration, while others can last a lifetime; and some communities "return to normal" quite quickly once a source of disruption is removed, while others do not.
- Social impacts can also vary in intensity or severity, a dimension that is defined differently in different project settings, just as an objective biophysical impact (e.g., a predicted loss of 75 sea otters) might have a minor effect on populations in one location (e.g., off the coast of Alaska), while amounting to significant fraction of the remaining population in another location (e.g., off the coast of California).
- Similarly, there are differences in the degree to which both type of impacts are likely to be cumulative, at one extreme, or mutually counter-balancing, at the other.

It is important to consider the social equity or distribution of impacts across different populations. Just as the biological sections of EIS's devote particular attention to threatened or endangered plant and wildlife species, the socioeconomic sections of EIS's must devote particular attention to the impacts on vulnerable

segments of the human population. Examples include the poor, the elderly, adolescents, the unemployed, and women; members of the minority and/or other groups that are racially, ethnically, or culturally distinctive; or occupational, cultural, political, or value-based groups for whom a given community, region, or use of the biophysical environment is particularly important.

In addition to the types of disturbances that can affect other species, humans are affected by changes in the distinctly human environment, including those associated with the phenomenon known as the social construction of reality. Persons not familiar with the social sciences are often tempted to treat social constructions as mere perceptions or emotions, to be distinguished from reality. Such a separation is not so easy to accomplish. We are careful to point out that the social construction of reality is characteristic of all social groups, including the agencies that are attempting to implement changes as well as the communities that are affected.

In the case of proposed actions that involve controversy, attitudes and perceptions toward a proposed policy change are one of the variables that must be considered in determining the significance of impacts. During controversies, participants are often tempted to dismiss the concerns of others as being merely imagined or perceived.

There are two important factual reasons not to omit such concerns from SIA's and EIS's, regardless of whether the views are widely accepted internally or come from an agency's critics. First, positions taken by all sides in a given controversy are likely to be shaped by (differing) perceptions of the policy or project, and the decision to accept one set of perceptions while excluding another, may not be scientifically defensible. Second, if the agency asserts that its critics are "emotional" or "misinformed," for example, it is guaranteed to raise the level of hostility between itself and community members and will stand in the way of a successful resolution of the problem.

In summary, some of the most important aspects of social impacts, involve not the physical relocation of human populations, but the meanings, perceptions, or social significance of these changes.

2.4 A Social Impact Assessment Framework

To predict what the probable impact of development will be, we seek to understand the past behavior of individuals and communities affected by agency actions, development, or policy changes. We use a comparative SIA method to study the course of events in a community where an environmental change has occurred, and extrapolate from that analysis what is likely to happen in another community where a similar development or policy change is planned. Put another way, if we wish to know the probable effects of a proposed project in location B, one of the best places to start is to assess the effects of a similar project that has already been completed in location A. Specific variables to assess project impacts are shown later in this section.

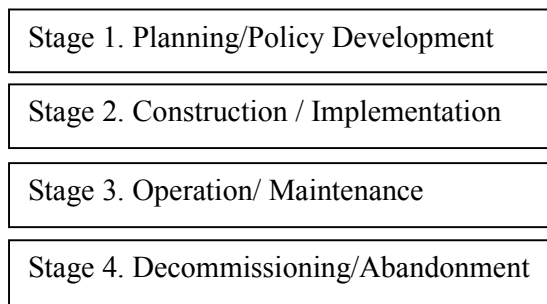


Figure 2.1: Stages in Project/Policy Development

Based on the direction outlined in NEPA and the CEQ Regulations, we need to identify probable un-desirable social effects of development before they occur in order to make recommendations for mitigation. The appropriate federal agency (in cooperation with the local community) bears responsibility for coordinating mitigation efforts. The SIA model also allows us to address the issues of alternative plans and alternative impacts of a proposed project. Moreover, because social impacts can be measured and understood, recommendations for mitigating actions on the part of the agencies can be made.

It is almost impossible to catalogue all dimensions of social impacts because change has a way of creating other changes. A freeway extension facilitates residential growth which leads to increased traffic and air pollution, creation of new schools, retail centers, and other services, and the decline of a downtown neighborhood.

Forecasted impacts are the difference in the human environment between the future with the project and a future without the project. Since we cannot see the future, we look at similar communities that have experienced similar policies or projects in the past. The social impact assessment model is comparative. The forecasts can be made about probable social impacts. The model also permits a restudy of the impacted community in the future to assess what the actual impact has been, so that the fit between forecasts and outcome can be matched.

One way to capture the dynamic complex quality of social impacts is to metaphorically take a series of snapshots over time as the development event or policy change unfolds and fills in what happened in between. Ideally, information about the community or geographic area of study is available both before and after the event to help in measurement. Social impacts then become the changes taking place between the two measurements points. The social assessor attempts to forecast the change associated with proposed activity, based on research and information

accumulated from comparative studies of similar situations. A strength of the comparative SIA model is that with appropriate data sources (those which can be collected frequently, such as land transfer records) it allows for an interpretation of dynamic events and can provide monitoring of short-term impacts. This kind of frequent monitoring provides a continual source of evaluation or check on the direction of forecasts made about social impacts.

2.5 Stage in Project/Policy Development

All projects and policies go through a series of steps or stages, starting with initial planning, then implementation and construction, carrying through to operation and maintenance (see Figure 2.1). At some point the project might be abandoned or decommissioned, or official policy could change. Social impacts will be different for each stage. Scoping of issues prior to analysis may lead the assessor to focus only on one stage. For example, one community might be concerned about public reaction resulting from initial siting of a hazardous waste disposal facility; another with the construction aspects of reservoirs; and a third might be faced with a change in the designation of adjacent public land from timber production to wilderness use. The specific stage in life of the project or policy is an important factor in determining effects. Not all social impacts will occur at each stage. Figure 2.1 illustrates the stages in project development.

2.5.1. Planning/Policy Development

Planning/policy development refers to all activity that takes place from the time a project or policy is conceived to the point of construction activity or policy implementation. Examples include project design, revision, public comment, licensing, the evaluating of alternatives, and the decision to go ahead. Social impacts actually begin the day the action is proposed and can be measured from that point.

Social assessors must recognize the importance of local or national social constructions of reality, which begin during the earliest of the four stages-the planning/policy development stage. We often assume that no impacts will take place until Stage 2 (construction/implementation) begins on a project -through dirt-moving operations, for example, or the start-up of construction activities. However, real, measurable, and often significant effects on the human environment can begin to take place as soon as there are changes in social or economic conditions. From the time of the earliest announcement of a pending policy change or rumor about a project, both hopes and hostilities can begin to mount; speculators can lock up potentially important properties, politicians can maneuver for position, and interest groups can form or redirect their energies. These changes occur by merely introducing new information into a community or region.

2.5.2 Construction/Implementation

The construction/implementation stage begins when a decision is made to proceed, a permit is issued or a law or regulation takes place. For typical construction projects, this involves clearing land, building access roads, developing utilities, etc. Displacement and relocation of people, if necessary, occurs during this phase.